[Translation]

Constitution of Sub-Committee

1392. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub-committee has been constituted by the Government to enquire into the cause of accidents of fighter planes;

(b) if so, the tenure of the Committee and the reasons for constituting such a committee even after constituting various enquiry committees; and

(c) the time by which this committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee is to identify the causes for aircraft accidents and prepare a comprehensive action plan to minimise such losses. The Committee is to submit its report to the Government at the earliest.

[English]

Vizhinjam High Navika Commandant

1393. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include Vizhinjam Trivandrum, Kerala in costal Air Command;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the details of the projects included in this command so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

MERI, Calcutta as Deemed University

1394. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to declare Marine Engineering Research Institute (MERI), Calcutta as a deemed University; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Team for Water Sports

1395. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to prepare and equip the Indian team for water sports such as canoeing, kayaking and rowing in the light of the 1998 Asian Games to be held at Jakarta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI. S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) Sending any team/ sports persons to the Asian Games or any International competitive event depends on the qualifying standards, the performance shown, and the likely prospects. The Government propose to prepare and equip the Indian team for water sports for the 1998 Asian Games, which are to be held in Bangkok, and not in Jakarta as mentioned in the Question.

For preparing the Rowing team Government and Sports Authority of India held discussions with Rowing Federation of India on 16.1.97 in which the coaching and competition programme was discussed and finalised. The process to finalise the probables for 1998 Asian Games is on.

Regarding Canoeing & Kayaking, the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association was asked to furnish the details of coaching & competition programme for 1998 Asian Games, which is awaited.

Legislation for Sports

1396. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to enact a central legislation to ensure implementation and development in the field of sports; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the features of the New National Sports Policy?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The views of various State/ UT Governments, National Sports Federations and other concerned organisations have been invited on the proposal relating to the transfer of the subject 'Sports' to the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India. At present, no decision has been taken to enact a central legislation for the development of sports and games in the country.

(b) The draft New National Sports Policy attempts to reformulate the existing policy in more concrete terms spelling out the specific measures required to be taken by the various concerned agencies involved in the promotion of sports and games in the country. Its main features are as under:-

(1) Broad-basing of Sports;

(2) Creation of sports Infrastructure;

(3) Mobilisation of mass media in introducing a sports culture in the country;

(4) Achieving excellence at the National and International levels;

(5) Scientific back-up to Sportspersons;

(6) Training and Development of Coaches, Sports Scientists, Judges, Referees and Umpires;

(7) incentives to Sportspersons;

(8) Resource Mobilisation for sports; and

(9) Easy access to international quality sports equipment.

World Bank Report Regarding Literacy Rate

1397. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the World Bank Report regarding literacy rate in the country;

(b) if so, the points mentioned in the Report;

(c) whether the Union Government have urged the State Governments to examine the report and make necessary arrangements in improving the literacy rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to(d) The World Bank has not brought out any report on the literacy rate in the country. However, in a publication entitled "India – Primary Education Achievement and Challenges", statistical information on the literacy rates based on the census was reported.

Extension of N.H. No. 5, A.P.

1398. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the proposal for extension of the National Highway No.5 between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada into a 4 lane road;

(b) whether the Asian Development Bank and the Centre has agreed to provide financial assistance in implementing the scheme; and

(c) if so, the total aid to be provided by the ADB and the Government, and the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Government of India is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. Widening to four lanes of the following road sections, between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada of NH 5, has been approved by the Government of India and is being implemented under loan assistance from Asian Development Bank.

(i) Name - four laning including strengthening of existing carriageway from Km. 385/0 - 395/875 of Vijayawada- Visakhapatnam section and Km. 0/0 - 2/837 of Visakhapatnam - Bhubaneshwar section of NH- 5 including strengthening of Ankapalli bypass.

Loan Assistance - included in the total loan amount of US $ 188 million for six sub-projects in various states. Target date of completion - June, 1997.

(ii) Name - strengthening of existing two lane carriageway of Vijayawada - Eluru (Km. 3.4 to 53.8 & Km.69.2 to 75) including four laning from (Km.3.4 to 13) and a 17.88 Km. long bypass for Eluru town (Km. 53.80 to 69.20.)

Loan Assistance-Included in the total loan of US $ 345 million for six sub-projects in various states. Target date of completion - Dec. 2000.

Dental Problem

1399. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about eighty per cent Indians suffer from dental problems and more than 90 per cent of the urban population is ailing from tooth related disorders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to educate the people on prevention and selfcare since a majority of Indians cannot afford dentists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Dental Council of India Dental carries affect more than 85% of school children. At present approximately 85 percent of our population is suffering from dental decay and about 95 percent of the population has periodontal diseases.

(c) Pilot Project on comprehensive Oral Health Care was launched on 13.7.1995. The main emphasis in this Pilot project is on preventive care by the community through selfcare measures, focussing on use of flourides, reduction in sugar consumption and smoking and improved oral cleanliness.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Soldiers

1400. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strength of Army is being reduced; and

(b) if so, the number of soldiers of the Indian Army as on 31st January, 1997 and the number of new soldiers recruited in ratio to retirement during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to reduce the overall ceiling on manpower in the Army.

Presently, updating data on manpower strength of all categories of personnel in the Army is done twice in a year, i.e. as on 31st March and 30th September. As on 30.9.1996, a total of 9,86,964 JCOs/ORs are on the strength of the Army.